

Sister Cities Update

A Newsletter for German-American Sister Cities

SCI Announces Grant Program (see p.4) !

Getting Started!

On the occasion of several sister cities conferences organized by the United States Information Service (USIS) in the course of this year, representatives from German-American sister cities affiliations have repeatedly expressed their interest in a regular information newsletter.

In response to the continued expressions of interest and the growing demand for current information about sister city-related issues, USIS is launching this newsletter to create a forum of discussion for all individuals and institutions who are charged with the task of strengthening and expanding sister city relations in their cities and for those who are interested in establishing an

affiliation with an American city. SISTER CITIES UPDATE will appear twice a year, in Spring and Fall. It will be edited and printed by the American Embassy and distributed by your nearest Amerika Haus (see page ... for addresses). The future of this publication depends on the quality of its contents and your support and participation. We will need your input and your experience regarding youth, cultural, economic and other exchanges to share it with others interested in beginning or strengthening exchange programs! If you would like to have your story of a recent exchange project included in future UPDATE newsletters, please send specific information (including whom to contact for more information) to the Educational Information Specialist of your nearest Amerika Haus or to the :

United States Information Service
Exchanges Division
American Embassy
Deichmanns Aue 29
53170 Bonn
Tel: 0228-339-2350

We hope that you will enjoy this first issue of SISTER CITIES UPDATE and look forward to your comments and suggestions.

SISTER CITIES HOMEPAGE

For those who have Internet access: A United States Information Service directory of German-American sister cities will be available on the WorldWideWeb. Look for it at: www.usia.gov/usis.html. It will contain news about current sister cities activities, upcoming projects, conferences, available materials and other relevant information.

Sister Cities International

Sister Cities International (SCI) is the national headquarters for the sister cities programs of 1,100 U.S. cities and their 1,770 partners in 122 countries worldwide. As a premier organization for citizen diplomacy in the United States, SCI leads the national movement for local community development and volunteer action in the global arena. SCI motivates municipal officials, volunteers, and youth to conduct long-term programs of mutual benefit and interest with their sister city counterparts.

Sister city affiliations between the United States and other nations began shortly after World War II and developed into a national initiative when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed the people-to-

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people program at a White House Conference in 1956. Originally housed as part of the National League of Cities, SCI became a separate, not-for-profit organization in 1967 due to the tremendous growth and popularity of the U.S. program. President Eisenhower's intention was to involve people and organized groups at all levels of our society in personal, citizen diplomacy with the hope that people to people relationships, fostered through sister city affiliations, would lessen the chance of future world conflicts. To this day, Japan and Germany represent the largest number of sister city affiliations with U.S. towns by country.

In every region of the world sister cities play a significant role in supporting sustainable community development. SCI supports and serves an expansive network of volunteers dedicated to promoting citizen exchange and community-based leadership. This network includes: State Coordinators, who serve in a voluntary capacity in each state and provide program development assistance as field staff to local level sister city committees; Local committee leaders and city officials, who represent the vast volunteer network in 1,100 cities throughout the United States; Volunteers at the grass roots level, who are members of the local sister city programs. SCI administers a wide variety of innovative grant programs, covering many different themes, which provide new ideas and direction to the nationwide sister cities network. Recent programs have included support for municipal education and training, youth community service learning, technical assistance, trilateral

exchanges, and independent newspaper management.

The goals of SCI are:

- ◆ to develop municipal partnerships between U.S. towns, cities, counties, states and similar jurisdictions in other nations
- ◆ to create opportunities for the citizens of member cities to experience and explore other cultures through long-term municipal partnerships;
- ◆ to create an atmosphere in which economic development and trade can be developed, implemented and strengthened;
- ◆ to further sustainable economic development in the specific areas of trade, tourism and technology;
- ◆ to offer training and support to municipal officials from newly emerging democracies;
- ◆ to help address common social issues and improve the quality of life in communities consisting of highly diverse populations.

Membership in Sister Cities International means: new prospects for trade and commerce, youth development programs, student and professional exchanges, enriched and diversified cultural experiences and understanding, increased awareness and interest in foreign languages.

As direct members, only U.S. cities pay annual dues. The amount of dues is based on the population of the city and ranges from \$130 for towns under 5,000 to \$1,200 for cities with over 1,000,000 inhabitants. All foreign cities are, however, entitled to receive the member benefits. For example, these include:

- ◆ access to sister city affiliations database
- ◆ technical assistance on building, funding, and managing a local sister city program
- ◆ reduced registration and exhibit fees for regional, national, and international conferences
- ◆ eligibility for innovative grant programs, from youth exchange to municipal training
- ◆ eligibility for the Young Artist Program, Eisenhower International Scholarships, Annual Awards, and various grant programs
- ◆ access to J-1 visas for practical training, language service and various insurance policies.

For more information about SCI, call or write to the national office, or visit the WWW site.

Sister Cities International
120 South Payne St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: (703) 836-3535
Fax: (703) 836-4815
<http://www.sister.cities.org>

SCI Online

Sister Cities International operates two mailing lists specifically for sister cities-related discussion, news and communication. The lists can be reached through Internet.

The first list, *scilist-general*, is for general discussion of sister cities issues and is unmoderated. To subscribe to this list, send an e-mail message to <majordomo@sister-cities.org> with a blank subject line and a body of: "subscribe *scilist-general*."

The second list, scilist-announce, is a moderated list for SCI announcements pertaining to SCI affiliates. To subscribe to this list, send an e-mail message to <majordomo@sister-cities.org> with a blank subject line and a body of "subscribe scilist-announce."

American Cities Seek German Sister Cities

The following American cities have expressed an interest in a German sister city. If your city is seeking another partnership in the U.S., or if you are aware of a city which is currently trying to locate an American sister city, please contact the Exchanges Division of the United States Information Service at the Embassy in Bonn for more detailed information (Tel: 0228-339-2350):

PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS

Park Ridge is a small Midwestern city with a population of 37,075. It borders the northwest edge of Chicago. Park Ridge is a primarily residential suburban and ethnically diverse community with no manufacturing industry. The city hosts a number of National and Professional Trade Associations and is known for its nationally recognized schools, civic groups and international services.

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Little Rock is the state capitol and Arkansas' largest city with a population of 175,795. It is in the heart of the Greater Little Rock metropolitan area covering four counties in Central Arkansas. The region's manufacturing industries include steel and metal

products, electrical appliances, meat and dairy products, and corrugated boards. Greater Little Rock educational facilities are recognized for their high academic standards, well-trained staff and well-equipped classrooms. The region hosts 10 colleges and universities providing quality education including the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

West Hollywood is an incorporated city of approximately 36,000 people representing great cultural and ethnic diversity. The city is located in the geographic heart of metropolitan Los Angeles, and adjacent to Beverly Hills and Hollywood. It is known as the Creative City from its industries primarily based on interior design and furnishings, the music recording and film industries, tourism and restaurants. West Hollywood has its own identity apart from Los Angeles and is interested in building up a completely new sister cities program with cities with a similar ethnic diversity and creative/design orientation. In Germany, West Hollywood would like to link with a district of Berlin, the sister city of neighboring Los Angeles.

WILKES-BARRE, PA

The Greater Wilkes-Barre area has a population of app. 300,000. The city of Wilkes-Barre is located in the northeast of Pennsylvania. New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. are within easy driving distance. Its principal economic activities are based on microelectronics and service industries. The region hosts numerous schools and three colleges and universities providing a wide range of academic programs. It also offers a

variety of cultural and recreational facilities. Wilkes-Barre has a strong interest to establish an affiliation with a German city to cultivate a better understanding and the exchange of ideas, heritage and educational opportunities.

Creating School Partnerships: GAPP

About 20 sister city affiliations have so far established partnerships between German secondary schools and American high schools by participating in the German-American Partnership Program (GAPP), e.g. Braunschweig and Omaha, NE, Gedern and Columbia, OH, Tübingen and Ann Arbor, MI.

GAPP is a non-profit student exchange program implemented by the Pedagogical Exchange Service (PAD) in Bonn and the Goethe House New York. The program is sponsored by the Federal Foreign Office and the United States Information Agency and pairs German and American secondary schools. German secondary schools of any type, including vocational schools, are eligible to participate; the American school, however, must have a German department organizing the exchange. The exchange lasts three or four weeks. Students attend school and are accommodated in the families of their host partners. Grants are available to reduce airfare costs of accompanying teachers and for students in those cases, where their airfare exceeds a certain limit due to the location of their partner school. For more information about how to apply for GAPP, please contact the:

Sekretariat der Ständigen Konferenz
der Kultusminister der Länder
Pädagogischer Austauschdienst
GAPP
Königsstr. 87
53113 Bonn
Tel: 0228-501-469

School-to-Work

On-the-job training exchanges between Germany and the U.S. are among the most valuable tools for building strong business relations and strengthening German-American relations. Practical training exchanges not only provide an opportunity for young people in the school-to-work transition to learn business skills and techniques used in Germany and the U.S., but also to gain an insight into the culture and language of the host country.

Only a few German-American sister city affiliations have established regular practical training exchange programs. The major problem for many partnerships who wish to take advantage of such training opportunities is the lack of practical training or internship slots provided by companies in their cities. Often, the cost and time involved in making the necessary arrangements in order to sponsor an intern (visas, permits, etc.) prohibits such a training exchange.

Practical trainees who want to visit their American sister city for the purpose of on-the-job practical training with a U.S. business, industrial firm, educational and cultural institution must enter the U.S. on a J-1 visa for trainees.

Sister Cities International is designated by the United States Information Agency (USIA) in Washington, D.C. to issue the IAP-66 form necessary to obtain a J-1 visa. The U.S. sister city sponsoring the international trainee must be a member of SCI. The trainee must have a confirmed training placement before SCI can process any paper work. For more information about the criteria which must be met, please contact Sister Cities International at 001-703-836-3535.

KOBLENZ-AUSTIN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Among the school-to-work programs based on German-American sister city affiliations, the Koblenz-Austin Apprenticeship Program is unprecedented. In 1993, a Mayor's Taskforce for Apprenticeships and Career Pathways for Youth was formed in Austin in order to develop programs for improving the school-to-work transition for Austin high school students. In working closely with the Handwerkskammer Koblenz, an exceptional training exchange has been set up for Austin high school graduates. The Handwerkskammer invited them to participate in a 2-2 ½ year apprenticeship program with businesses in the Koblenz area. Upon completion, the apprentices will receive a certificate in their field. While in Germany, they receive a salary with full benefits and are accommodated either with a host family or in apartments. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact the Amerika Haus Frankfurt or the Handwerkskammer Koblenz, Friedrich-Ebert-Ring, 56068 Koblenz.

Community Leaders Program

Dieses neue, von Sister Cities International finanziell unterstützte deutsch-amerikanische Austauschprogramm soll die Beziehungen zwischen deutschen und amerikanischen Partnerstädten stärken und die Zusammenarbeit der Partnerstädte in den Bereichen Einwanderung und multikulturelle Gesellschaft fördern. Im Rahmen eines Wettbewerbs werden aus den über 120 deutsch-amerikanischen Städtepartnerschaften sieben Partnerstädte ausgewählt. Je ein deutscher und ein amerikanischer Gemeindevertreter wird ein 1-5-monatiges Praktikum in der Gemeinde oder in einer in den o.g. Bereichen tätigen Organisation des Gastlandes absolvieren. Während der Jahrestagung von SCI im Juli 1997 werden alle Teilnehmer des Programms zusammentreffen, um ihre Erfahrungen auszutauschen.

Ihre amerikanische Partnerstadt wurde von SCI über dieses Programm unterrichtet. Die Anmeldefrist ist der 1. November 1996. Informationen können auch bei Ihrem regional zuständigen Amerika Haus oder der Botschaft der USA angefordert werden.

Affiliations Update

William Sheldon, DAI
Nürnberg

Virginia: neuer
Wirtschaftspartner für die Region
Nürnberg?

Seit über 50 Jahren bestehen gute

Beziehungen zwischen Deutschland und den Vereinigten Staaten. Dies trifft auch für die mittelfränkischen Städte im Großraum Nürnberg zu. Dazu haben das Deutsch-Amerikanische Institut in Nürnberg und die vielen dort stationierten Soldaten und deren Familien viel beigetragen. Die Soldaten der "Nürnberg Military Community" wurden daheim in den USA Botschafter für Nürnberg, Erlangen, Fürth und Schwabach. Mit der Reduzierung der amerikanischen Truppen in Deutschland sind alle Soldaten aus dem Großraum Nürnberg abgezogen. Um so wichtiger ist es nun, die guten Beziehungen mit einer Städtepartnerschaft zu pflegen.

Erste Voraussetzung einer Partnerschaft ist es, daß beide Partner sie in gleicher Weise wollen. Die Stadt Richmond in Virginia hat Interesse an einer Partnerschaft mit Nürnberg signalisiert. In der Tat wäre sie ein geeigneter Partner.

Auch die Lage der zukünftigen Partnerstadt ist wichtig. Es gibt direkte Flugverbindungen über Frankfurt nach Washington, D.C., und eine Amtrak-Verbindung von Washington nach Richmond von 1 ½ Stunden. Richmond liegt in der Nähe der Bundeshauptstadt der USA, Washington, D.C., einer der interessantesten amerikanischen Städte. In weniger als zwei Stunden ist man am Atlantischen Ozean oder in den Blue Ridge Mountains. Richmond liegt im mittleren Teil von Virginia, der selbst ein Staat mit bedeutender Geschichte ist. Virginia gilt als Geburtsstätte des englischsprachigen Amerika. Hier befinden sich die ersten drei

permanenten englischen Siedlungen: Jamestown, Williamsburg und Yorktown. Der Unabhängigkeitskrieg und der Bürgerkrieg wurden in Virginia mitentschieden. Acht U.S.-Präsidenten stammten aus Virginia. Der Staat hat einen hohen Anteil deutschstämmiger Bevölkerung.

Nürnberg braucht eine Partnerstadt mit Kultur, einer dynamischen Wirtschaft, mit einer führenden Rolle in einem Bundesstaat und vielen Freizeitmöglichkeiten. Richmond bietet eine vielseitige, anspruchsvolle Kultur an. Das größte Kunstmuseum des Südens befindet sich hier (Virginia Museum of Fine Arts) wie auch das staatliche Ballet, zwei Theater und ein Opernhaus. Die Stadt hat drei Universitäten. Die Qualität der Schulen ist überdurchschnittlich.

Richmond ist wirtschaftlich die dynamischste Stadt in den Südstaaten. Hier befindet sich die größte Konzentration von Produktionsstätten (600) in Virginia, die wichtigsten im Bereich Tabak, Aluminium, Chemie, Textil, Papier, sowie Druckereien und Verlage. Viele Firmen haben ihre Hauptquartiere in Richmond, darunter dreißig große Versicherungsgesellschaften. Mindestens zwanzig deutsche Firmen besitzen Niederlassungen in Richmond. Die Siemens AG verhandelt z. Zt. über eine große Investition im Großraum Richmond. Eine der größten Nürnberger Firmen, "Lucent Technologies," hat eine große Produktionsstätte in Richmond. Das gute Verkehrsnetz trägt zum wirtschaftlichen Erfolg von Richmond bei. Richmond ist Verkehrsachse mit zwei Autobahnen, vier Eisenbahnlinien, einem internationalen Flughafen und Hafen.

Die Stadt Richmond hat 203.000 und der Großraum mit den Bezirken Richmond, Henrico, Hanover und Chesterfield 867.000 Einwohner. 105.000 Arbeitnehmer sind in Richmond beschäftigt. Die Arbeitslosigkeit liegt bei 5%.

Auch der frühere Gouverneur von Virginia, Gerald L. Baliles, bestätigte während seines Besuchs Anfang Oktober, daß aus der Region Richmond klare Signale für eine Partnerschaft mit dem Raum Nürnberg kommen. Baliles, ein Experte für regionale Wirtschaftsentwicklung, traf bei seinem Besuch mit Nürnbergs Oberbürgermeister Ludwig Scholz, Bürgermeisterin Helen Jungkuntz sowie mit Vertretern der Industrie- und Handelskammer, der Rathausparteien und Fachhochschule zusammen, um eine mögliche Partnerschaft zwischen den Regionen Richmond und Nürnberg zu erörtern.

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Information USA

Located in the Amerika Haus in six cities around Germany, **Information USA** provides a network of information on U.S. political, economic and social issues as well as U.S. business and educational opportunities that can be a useful resource for developing Sister City relationships.

The Reference Service provides information from a combination of reference books, U.S. government documents, periodicals, online and CD-ROM databases.

The Business Information Center provides specialized business information, such as legislative and regulatory review, company profiles or industry contact lists, designed to promote and develop the economic relationship between the United States and Germany.

Study in the USA (INFOTHEK) provides information brochures and services to help students who are interested in studying in the U.S. Specially trained Education Information Specialists, who are familiar with colleges and universities in the United States, inform students on a wide range of educational opportunities and requirements in the U.S.

Information USA locations

Amerika Haus Berlin
Hardenbergstr. 22-24
10623 Berlin
Tel (Reference): 030-31107-406
(Study USA/tape): 030-31107-409

Amerika Haus Frankfurt
Stauffenstr. 1
60323 Frankfurt/Main
Tel (Reference): 069-971448-20
(Study USA/tape): 069-720107

Amerika Haus Hamburg
Tespoldstr. 1
20148 Hamburg
Tel (Reference): 040-450104-22
(Study USA/tape): 040-450104-16

Amerika Haus Köln
Apostelnkloster 13-15
50672 Köln
Tel (Reference): 0221-2090147
(Study USA/tape): 0221-256888

Amerika Haus Leipzig
Wilhelm-Seyffert-Str. 4
04107 Leipzig
Tel (Reference): 0341-21384-25
(Study USA/tape): 0341-21384-44

Amerika Haus München
Karolinenplatz 3
80333 München
Tel (Reference): 089-552537-22
(Study USA/tape): 089-552537-17

USIS Online

Welcome to the USIS Germany Homepage!

This newsletter is also available on the USIS Germany Homepage at

<http://www.usia.gov/posts/bonn.html>

Welcome to the USIA Homepage!

The United States Information Agency in Washington, D.C. maintains an WorldWideWeb site on the Internet providing information about the United States of America, educational and cultural exchanges, current events and issues, the United States Information Service, U.S. International Broadcasting, and special events. The Internet address for the the site is:

www.usia.gov/usis.html.

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